

Story 1649 (1970 Tape 10)

Narrator: İbrahim Gürsoy

Location: Çamlıdere, kaza
town of Ankara
Province

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Maternal Influence¹

A merchant used to get married whenever he visited a new town. One day he reached a city where he wanted to get married, as usual. The people of that city told the man, "That girl's mother is a bad woman /i.e. whore/

But the man said, "Never mind. I can take care of her and protect her."

When it was time to leave that city, he had his camels loaded, and had his wife mount one camel. On the road, they came to a bridge. The first camel of the caravan refused to cross the bridge. Then the wife suggested, "Take the camel I'm riding and put it in front of the caravan. That may succeed." Her camel moved forward, and when her camel went across, the reluctant camel also crossed, following hers.

Her husband asked, "How did you know how to make that camel cross the bridge?"

¹This is an exemplum from ATON Tale 297. Because it is an incident complete unto itself, we have here given it independent status in order not to lost track of it within the much longer Tale 297.

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She answered, "This is how I knew: The camel I am riding is the mother of the camel which refused to cross. When the mother crossed, of course her young followed from behind."

The man said, "If that's the case, you won't make a good wife for me."